**Excerpt from John Cotton, “God’s Promise to His Plantation,” 1630**

*[Note: Before leaving England in 1630, John Winthrop and other Puritans attended church services and heard a sermon preached by Rev. John Cotton. In 1633 Cotton left England and settled in Boston.]*

God places a people in this or that country. God either lets men discover a country themselves or, upon hearing that land has been discovered by others, God sends them to it. The settlers can plainly see the influence of God leading them from one country to another. God makes room for a people to live there when he drives those who live there away by a just war. Or, God permits his people to settle on land that is vacant even though it is in an inhabited country. Where there is vacant land, there is liberty for the people who honor God to come and live there even though they neither buy it nor get permission to settle there.

Questions

1. If you were a Puritan getting ready to settle in New England how would you react to Rev. Cotton’s sermon?

2. What rights do you have from God to settle this new land?

3. How must you deal with the native people of North America?